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Y, THE USION, AND THE CONSTITUTION."

VOL. XIII. NO. 307. THE DEFICIENCY BILL

WASHINGTON CITY, THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1858.

REMARKS OF HON. L. O'B. BRANCH or NORTH CAROLANA,

House of Representatives, April 9, 1858

Mr. Bitanch. I desire, Mr. Speaker, to make a few cunarks before this till shull be put upon its passage. I shall detain the House but for a few minutes, if I am al-lowed to proceed without interruption; and before yield-ng the floor—as I propose to call the previous question— thall desired.

Mr. Speaker, in the remarks that I shall make is relation to this bill, I desire it to be understood that the administration new in power, and through our friendship to which we have been appealed to to poss this bill, is the administration of my choice. Not only its head, but the cabinet by which that head is surrounded, met, at the time of their appointment, my approbation, and I have seen nothing since to diminish the confidence which I have either in the head or in the members of the cabinet. But while I say that, I desire it to be understood distinctly that I stand on this floor, not to carry out, without question or consideration, the recommendation of any department of the government; nor to receive the edicts that may be sent down to us by others as law which we dare not question or inquire into except on pain of being considered as wanting in confidence in the administration.

I am as much a friend of the administration as any gentleman on this floor; but here is a measure pendling which it is the duty of the representatives of the people to look into and consider carefully before they adopt it. And, sir, in the remarks which I shall make, if I find fault with practices which I imagine prevail in the government, and which ought not to prevail, I do not wish to be understood as censuring this administration; for I know that in many instances they are practices which have come down from administrations which have preceded it.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said, in the course of the

argery enough to provide against all chance of the ditures exceeding the amount appropriated? I mates submitted under such an understanding larger even than the executive departments the might think necessary for the public service, other hand, if you allow it to be understood that will curtail their estimates, submit them at the executive departments have made honest efforts to keep within the appropriations made by Congress, and have been unable to do so, I am willing to grant it. I am not willing to see Congress establish a precedent that the departments must stand by their original estimates; and that under no circumstances shall they have an additional appropriation; because, if you do, the effect will be inevitable that the executive officers will make most extravagant estimates, in order that they may not be crimiled.

be crippled.

So much for deficiency bills in general. Now, Mr. Speaker, in regard to this deficiency bill which is pending. It consists of several items for the different brancher of the public service, differing not only in the magnitude. of the public service. POTTOTIONATION OF PATTOTIONS

OF THE PATTOTION OF PATTOTI of the amounts, but in the calls for them. Much the

transportation. It was not until this late practice or sending troops everywhere, when calls were made, far beyond the frontiers, that these enormous expenditures in the Quartermaster's department were incurred. It is said in the newspapers I do not believe it, how-ever—that these Indian wars are sometimes gotten up by the settlers for the purpose of furnishing a market and giving them an opportunity of making a speculation out of it. I do not attach much credit to such reports; but cer-

tain it is that the practice to which I have referred is likely to lead to many irregularities.

There is another cause of these large expenditures to which I now desire to call the attention of the House. We have recently had before us a bill to increase the army of the United States. Well, sir, in my simplicity, I imagined that it would be a sufficient increase, and the most economical increase, to add to the number of privates in each company. I supposed we had officers enough, and that the proper mode of increasing the army would be to increase the number of privates. Having always heard that our peace establishment was only a "skeleton" army, to be filled up in time of war, I thought the time had arrived for filling up the skeleton without enlarging it. A few of the friends around me, as inexperienced in military affairs as I was, were under the same impression; but we were told that an officer could not command more men than were placed under

de agrad bood aboutelle a le batel et geldeparele de agrae brent bast auss en gy Service, rathers (2)	Captains.	Deutenante	Total officers.	Prester indental.	Men to each officer,
French infantry French rifles Austrian infantry	4	2 2	3	110 110 to 145	37 38 to 48
Grensdere Other foot Kille company	1	3		164 196 to 215	65 to 72
Proseina infantry Sardinian infantry Sardinian infantry	1	4 215	3	219 126 133 236	41 41 69
United States infantry in peace	1	2	i de	totares.	14 25

runs table includes all the European nations, with one exception, which have ever earned any military reputation. It appears that the average number of men commanded by one officer in the European arreles by even. In one infection war establishment, one officer for every twenty-five men.

It is obvious that we have got an army of officers almost exclusively; hence, in some measure, the great expense attending our army. We have got officers enough; and the true way of increasing the army would have been by adding to the number of privates in each company.

or that time.

Now, my proposition is that, instead of forcing gentlemen to vote for what they do not like, in order to get that they do like, the Committee of Ways and Means hould report separate bills for the support of the army ad for these other items. These others may command the approval of a majority of the House: and, if se, they will pass. But let us not cripple our army, and the operations of the coverages to a second of grantity to the

the approval of a majority of the House; and, if so, they will pass. But let us not cripple our army, and the operations of the government, on account of gratuity to the reporters, however worthy of it they are, and of extra compensation to our cierts. It does not become the dignity of Congress to insist upon subjects so inconguous, in order to make one drive the other through.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to say what I shall do in case of tine failure of my proposition. I feel the pressure upon me to provide for our gallant army in Utah. I feel that my duty, as a member of Congress, is to do what I can to provide for it; because, if the President has sent them there wrongfully, it is not the fault of the army, it is the fault of the President. I would not have your army staved. I would not subject them to defeat and disaster; and subject our flag to be drugged in the mud and trampled spon by the rebellious citizens of the country, simply because the President has done wrong, if he has so done. If the President has done wrong, hold him to his responsibility before the country; or, if there has a time a supposition.

6th auditor

ers have ranted opportunity to politicians have

By the steamer which leaves our port to-day Californiands the solemn and carnest declaration of her resolve uphold the President in the wise and prudent policy a has pursued in relation to Kansas. The resolution Mr. WARREN. I desire to ask the gentleman from North Carolina a question:

Mr. BRANCH. I decline to yield. I believe that under the rules of the House I have a right to consume an hour, and before I close I intend to give time to gentleman from the difference of opinion which has among its members, and will, as it men for questions.

Mr. WARREN. The gentleman